

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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17

ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4984

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS

SUBJECT: CARDINAL COMMENTS ON KIM CHI-HA CASE

1. DURING AMBASSADOR'S FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION CARDINAL KIM SU-WON TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD RECEIVED THROUGH INTERMEDIARY OF PRISON CHAPLAIN A STATEMENT BY POET KIM CHI-HA IN WHICH KIM REFUTED HIS ALLEGED CONFESSION THAT HE WAS A MARXIST REVOLUTIONARY AND COMMUNIST. WHILE CARDINAL DID NOT SAY MORE ABOUT CONTENT OF REFUTATION, HE SAID THAT HE HOPED TO USE DOCUMENT FOR POSSIBLE NEGOTIATION WITH GOVT REGARDING TRIAL AND TREATMENT OF

KIM CHI-HA.

2. WHILE CARDINAL KIM DID NOT SPECIFICALLY SAY SO HE LEFT IMPLICATION THAT RELEASE OF DOCUMENT FOR PUBLICATION ABROAD WOULD DEPEND ON FLEXIBILITY OF ROKG IN THIS MATTER AND POSSIBLY ON THREATENED TRIAL OF THREE PRIESTS SAID TO BE NOW DETAINED FOR REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN MILITARY EXERCISES.
SNEIDER

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